

JUNCUS SLWOOKOÖRUM,  
A NEW SPECIES FROM ARCTIC ALASKA

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On July 23, 1966, I collected specimens of a small *Juncus* near Boxer Bay (63° 22' N. Lat., 171° 35' W. Long.) southwestern Saint Lawrence Island, in the northern Bering Sea. These specimens cannot be identified as any known species of *Juncus*. They show some similarity to depauperate specimens of *J. Fauriense* Buch., an East Asian species not known to occur in Alaska. However, the equitant leaves and unique, two flowered inflorescences (Fig. 1) of the new species are distinctive. Each of the approximately 10 inflorescences examined were identical in that they consisted of two flowers. The lower flower is essentially sessile; the upper is borne on a pedicel about 5 mm long. Each of the flowers probably represents a reduced head.

The specimens were collected at the edge of a small tundra pond. They grew in thick, saturated moss, in association with *Saxifraga nudicaulis* D. Don. and *S. rivularis* L.

The new species is named after the Slwooko family of Gambell, Saint Lawrence Island. Several members of this family contributed greatly to the success of my field work on the island. Boxer Bay, the type locality for *J. Slwookoörum*, is the ancestral hunting and trapping ground of the Slwookos.

***Juncus Slwookoörum* S. B. Young**

Perennis, rhizomate brevi horizontali, radicibus filiformibus elongatibus. *Caulis erectus*, 5-15 cm altus, teres. *Folia* basalaria 10-15 cm alta, *equitantia*. *Vagina* in auriculis duabus obtusis castaneis producta. *Lamina* foliosa, septis transversis completis externe plus minusve prominentibus interceptis. *Inflorescentia* terminalis, 2-florae, superata bractea foliacea longa. *Flos inferior sessilis*; *flos superior portatus in pedicello* plus minusve 5 mm longo. *Flores* 4-5 mm longi. *Tepala* membranacea, castanea, uninervia, lanceolata, acuta, aequilonga vel externa paullo longiora.



Fig. 1. *Juncas Slwookoörum*: A — typical habit, B — typical inflorescence, consisting of two flowers, one sessile, the other borne on a pedicel.

*Stamina* tres, perigonium superantia. *Stylus* filiformis; stigmata 3, longa, exserta, torta. *Fructus* c 2 mm longus, obovatus, non rostratus; pericarpium membranaceum, pallidum. Holotypus: *S. B. Young* 711 (GH): Sinus Boxeri, Insula Sancti Laurentii. Perennial with short horizontal rhizome and elongated filiform roots. *Stem* erect, 5-15 cm tall, terete (or slightly flattened in dried specimens). *Basal leaves* 10-15 cm long, *equitant*. *Sheath* extended in two obtuse, castaneous auriculi. *Blade* flat and foliaceous, at least the upper portions having more or less prominent transverse septa. *Inflorescence* terminal, 2-flowered, overtopped by a long leafy bract. *Lower flower* sessile, the *upper flower* borne on a pedicel c 5 cm long. *Flowers* 4-5 mm long. *Tepals* membranaceous, brown, 1-nerved, lanceolate, acute, of equal length or the exterior ones slightly longer. *Stamens* 3, overtopping the perigon. *Style* filiform, stigmas 3, long, exserted, and twisted. *Fruit* c 2 mm long, obovate, beakless; pericarp membranaceous, pale.

*Juncus Shwokoörum* joins a small but fairly distinctive group of species whose ranges are narrowly endemic to the Bering Straits region. Other examples are *Carex Jacobipeteri* Hult., *Papaver Walpolei* Pors., *Saxifraga nudicaulis* D. Don. (with disjunct stations in eastern Asia), and *Artemisia senjavenensis* Bess. These species probably represent remnants of a specialized flora of the northern portion of the Bering Land Bridge.

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